

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Sub D1  
33. (Amended) A process for the production of cis-1,4-polybutadiene having a gel content below 250 ppm, comprising polymerizing 1,3-butadiene in the presence of a catalyst and a polymerization diluent, wherein the polymerization diluent comprises an organic solvent and water particles having a median particle size less than or equal to about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Sub D1  
38. (Amended) The process of Claim 37, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of a saturated hydrocarbon, an unsaturated hydrocarbon and mixtures thereof.

39. (Amended) The process of Claim 38, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aliphatic hydrocarbon, a C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon, a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> aromatic hydrocarbon, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> monoolefinic hydrocarbon and mixtures thereof.

55. (Amended) The process of Claim 48, wherein the organo-aluminum halide compound is selected from:

(I)

(a) an alkyl aluminum chloride selected from the group consisting of diethyl aluminum chloride and ethyl aluminum sesquichloride, or a mixture of :

(a) and

(b) an organo aluminum compound corresponding to the formula:



wherein:

R: represents a C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group;

and

(II) an alkyl aluminum chloride wherein the alkyl group has from 8 to 12 carbon atoms.

On new page 18, please add the following:

--GEL REDUCTION IN HIGH CIS-1,4-POLYBUTADIENE

PRODUCTION PROCESS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

B4 The present invention relates to a process for the production of cis-1,4-polybutadiene having a low gel content. The process includes polymerizing 1,3-butadiene in the presence of a catalyst and a polymerization diluent. According to the present invention, the diluent contains an organic solvent and water particles having a median particle size less than or equal to about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .--